

VZCZCXRO1641
PP RUEHPA
DE RUEHDK #0381 0510743
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 200743Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7594
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0228
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 0928
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0779
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA 0404
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0438
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0021

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 000381

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR INL/AEE, AF/W, AF/RSA, AND IO/T
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2017

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [AORC](#) [PU](#)

SUBJECT: GUINEA BISSAU: UNODC REQUESTS COUNTER-NARCOTICS
POSITION

REF: A. DAKAR 124

[1](#)B. 06 DAKAR 2801

[1](#)C. 06 DAKAR 2818

[1](#)D. 06 DAKAR 2609

Classified By: Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has requested USG assistance in staffing a police attache position for counter-narcotics reporting in Bissau. Post believes outside support on drugs is urgently needed before the GOGB's path to narco-state status is irreversible. END SUMMARY.

THE REQUEST

[1](#)2. (U) Antonio Mazitelli, Regional Representative of the UNODC, requested U.S. assistance in staffing a position in Bissau to uncover information and report on narcotics trafficking. Post has reported the growing problem of narcotics trafficking through Guinea-Bissau (see reftels) and its growing prominence as a preferred route due to poor surveillance and enforcement capability and the easy corruptibility of officials.

[1](#)3. (U) UNODC has coordinated this request with Representative of the Secretary General (RSG) Shola Omoregie in Bissau. They expressed concern about the significant lack of information concerning all aspects of trafficking in Bissau including organizations involved, leaders, locations of storage and processing facilities, routes, and corrupted officials. They believe a police attache with experience in counternarcotics issues stationed in Bissau under UN auspices is the first step to providing necessary information. UNODC does not have the budget to staff the position, but the UN office for Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) would supply office space and other support.

[1](#)4. (U) Mazitelli also pointed out that continuing to ignore the problem in Guinea-Bissau could undermine U.S. counternarcotics efforts in South America, the primary source for cocaine moving through West Africa. He said this will also send an important signal not only to traffickers, but also to the Government of Guinea-Bissau that the international community is concerned and taking action.

COMMENT

¶5. (C) Post agrees this could be a useful step toward confronting traffickers and requests the Department consider providing a civilian police officer or making an earmarked contribution to UNODC for an initial duration of six months to one year. Those in the GOGB, police, and military who are committed to fighting drug trafficking need support from outside because drug-related corruption already appears to be entrenched at the highest levels. Those who have displayed a willingness and capability in the past to make drug arrests have been effectively put out of action due to credible death threats. END SUMMARY.
JACOBS